



## Transboundary conservation & connectivity across landscapes and across nations for life's sake

**Olivier Chassot (ochassot@cct.or.cr)**

Executive Director, Tropical Science Center

Co Vice-Chair, Connectivity Conservation & Mountains, WCPA-IUCN

Regional Vice-Chair for Mesoamerica, Transboundary Specialist Group, WCPA-IUCN

IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>

## The argument (1)

---

The world's relatively well-developed systems of protected areas can serve as examples of how to address connectivity issues, building ecological networks and applying the ecosystem approach at the landscape level.



## The argument (2)

---

Transboundary conservation provide a great opportunity to enhance participatory conservation strategies across nations: it is highly meaningful at the landscape level.



## The argument (3)

---

Transboundary conservation and connectivity conservation offer an opportunity to manage landscapes at different scales through alliances between governments and the civil society.





# Connectivity Conservation





## A simple argument:

Connectivity conservation represents a unique opportunity to address the challenges of global change. It is a nature-based solution to climate change.



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>




# What is connectivity conservation?



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>





**Large-scale**  
natural landscapes

Keeping the bush **intact**

Letting animals  
**move and survive**

**Interlinking** protected areas

**Restoring** landscapes

Involving many  
**people**

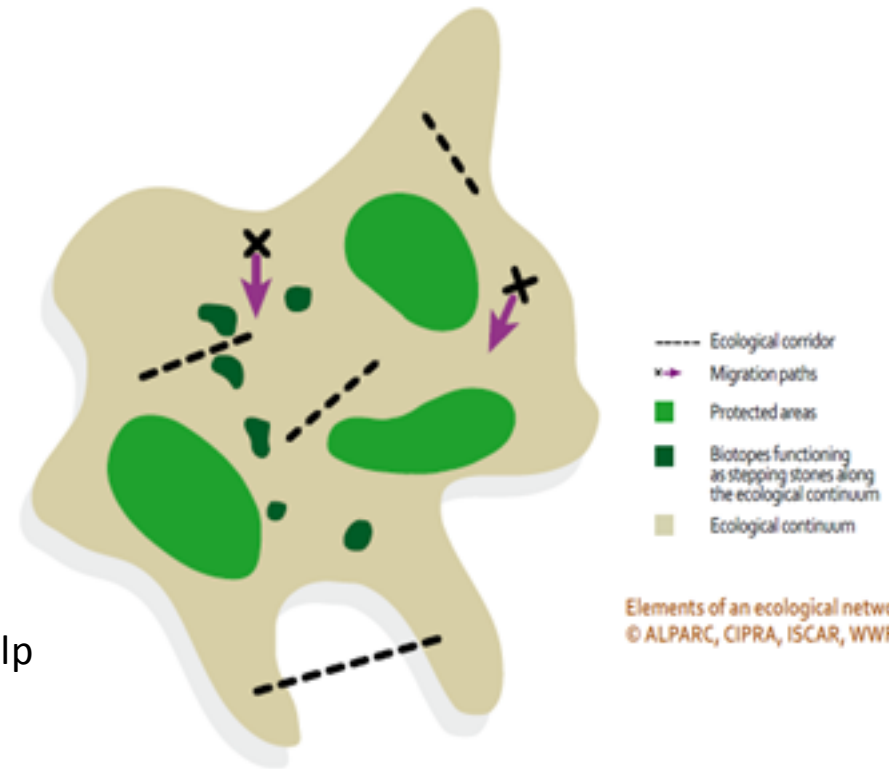
Across many **tenures**





## Connectivity conservation includes:

- Interconnecting protected areas.
- Working with people and authorities to sustainably manage natural and modified landscapes between protected areas.
- Working with people and authorities to help minimise the effects of climate change.



Elements of an ecological network  
© ALPARC, CIPRA, ISCAR, WWF (2010)



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>

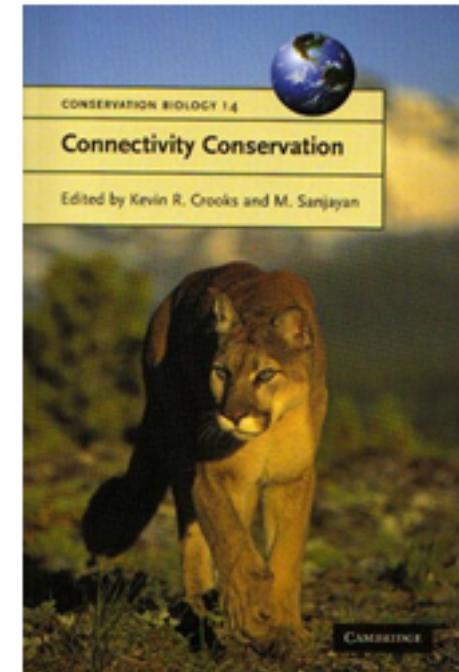




From the biological perspective,  
connectivity conservation is essentially:

*About the degree of movement of organisms (plants and animals)  
and processes (ecological interactions, ecosystem processes,  
habitat permeability and natural disturbances).*

Crooks, K.R. and Sanjayan, M. (2006). *Connectivity Conservation*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>



## Connectivity conservation characteristics / Purpose:

To motivate integrated cross-sector collaboration and conserve healthy environments and species by:

- Conserving and restoring habitat and their linkages.
- Retaining the connectedness of ecological and evolutionary processes.
- Managing threats actively.
- Retaining opportunities for change within natural settings.
- Sustaining ecosystem services.



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>



## Connectivity conservation:

- One critical response to climate change
- Big changes and big issues need big thinking responses



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>





## Connectivity conservation /

A key response to climate change :

It is recognised as a key adaptive strategy by :

- The IPCC (2007)
- The CBD Secretariat (PoWPA)
- Governments and regions such as Australia, Mesoamerica, the Alps, The Himalayas, etc.
- All major environmental NGO's including WWF, Conservation International, TNC and many others
- IUCN



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>





## Connectivity conservation / A key response to climate change : CBD (PoWPA):

- CBD Target 1.1: To establish and strengthen national **and regional** systems of protected areas integrated into a global network
- CBD Target 2.1: To integrate protected areas into **broader land- and seascapes** and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>



A vertical green line on the left and a horizontal green line intersecting at the text.

**A few global / large-scale initiatives that  
address transboundary and connectivity  
conservation**





**Harvey Locke**

➡ Large-scale response

**NORTH AMERICA**

**Yellowstone to Yukon Connectivity Corridor**







**Tatyana Yashina**

➔ Linking protected areas  
across political boundaries

**ALTAI  
REPUBLIC**

**Altai - Sayan Megadiversity Corridor**





**Nakul Chettri**

Investing in research

Sacred Himalayan Landscape Connectivity Corridor





**Ian Pulsford**

➤ Connectivity conservation in Australia

**EASTERN  
AUSTRALIA**

**Great Eastern Ranges Connectivity Corridor**







Leadership



Persistence



Large scale research



Large scale



Across borders



With people

# Connectivity Conservation & Transboundary Conservation

---





## Global challenges to transboundary conservation and connectivity:

- Human demographic pressure / large impact infrastructure projects
- Diplomatic, military or other specific border conflicts
- Many issues derived from climate change, health and food security
- Disparities between neighbouring countries



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>



## Actual role of transboundary conservation:

- Transboundary conservation provides a highly relevant framework that allows for the active management of connectivity conservation, including conservation with people, restoration efforts, the potential for the recognition of ecosystem services and goods, and the application of incentives.



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>



## Potential role of transboundary conservation & protected areas related to connectivity conservation:

- Promoting the establishment of transboundary protected areas and/or the re-categorization of some border national protected areas (where appropriate and/or necessary) into transboundary conservation initiatives may push forward the agenda of conservation connectivity at the regional level.
- Key features within identified connectivity conservation landscapes and seascapes may become transboundary protected areas when and where appropriate.



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>





## Potential role of transboundary conservation & protected areas (2):

- New transboundary protected areas may or should be designed and planned in a way that clearly enhances ecological networks and connectivity conservation, as well as human community and ecosystem resilience:
  - Natural solution
  - Selling argument
- Combining transboundary protected areas and connectivity conservation is a winner.



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>



## Ecosystem approach:

- The application of the 12 principles of the ecosystem approach allow for the best planning, implementation and management of both transboundary protected areas and connectivity conservation initiatives.



IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>



## Governance:

- The governance of transboundary conservation (within the landscape) is very similar to the governance model needed to implement connectivity conservation (multiple use and multiple stakeholders).
- National legislation and multi-national agreements must provide an adequate framework for the implementation of connectivity conservation that may be applied to transboundary conservation initiatives.





A photograph of a majestic, snow-covered mountain peak, likely a Himalayan range, under a clear, vibrant blue sky. The mountain's ridges are sharp and covered in thick white snow. In the foreground, the dark, silhouetted branches of evergreen trees frame the lower part of the image, adding a sense of depth and scale. The overall mood is serene and awe-inspiring.

**Thank you!**



## Transboundary conservation & connectivity across landscapes and across nations for life's sake



**Olivier Chassot (ochassot@cct.or.cr)**

Executive Director, Tropical Science Center

Co Vice-Chair, Connectivity Conservation & Mountains, WCPA-IUCN

Regional Vice-Chair for Mesoamerica, Transboundary Specialist Group, WCPA-IUCN

IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: <http://connectivityconservation.net>